

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multi use circuit module comprising:

a front half module wherein the front half module is a functional circuit module having electrical contacts on a front portion thereof for electrically coupling the multi use circuit module to a host device; and

5 a rear half module removably coupled to the front half module for increasing functionality of the multi use circuit module.

2. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the rear half

10 module is a non-functional component, the rear half module being coupled to the front half module to standardize a size of the multi use circuit module.

3. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 2 further comprising:

a front half module connector formed on a rear section of the front half module;

15 a rear half module connector formed on a front section of the rear half module for removably coupling the rear half module to the front half module.

4. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 3 further comprising a

locking device coupled to the front half module connector and the rear half module connector for

20 keeping the front half module coupled to the rear half module.

5. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the front half module connector is a channeling formed on the rear section thereof, the channeling runs from a side wall of the front half module along a length of the front half module, and wherein the rear half module connector is a tab member formed on the front portion thereof.

5

6. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 4 wherein the locking member comprises:

a channeling formed on a rear section of the front half module, the channeling running from a side wall of the front half module along a length of the front half module;

10 a front module locking tab member extending downward in the channeling;

a tab member formed on a front portion of the rear half module; and

a rear module locking tab extending up from the tab member wherein the tab member of the rear half module is slid within the channeling, the rear module locking tab engaging the front module locking tab to lock the front half module to the rear half module.

7. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 4 wherein the locking member comprises:

a channeling formed on a rear section of the front half module, the channeling running from a side wall of the front half module along a length of the front half module;

5 a front module locking ball extending downward within the channeling;

a tab member formed on a front portion of the rear half module; and

an indentation formed on the tab member wherein the indentation is similar in size and shape to the front module locking ball, wherein the tab member of the rear half module is slid within the channeling, the indentation engaging the front module locking ball to lock the  
10 front half module to the rear half module.

8. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the rear half module is a functional I/O component, the rear half module being coupled to the front half module to increase functionality of the multi use circuit module by allowing different I/O components to be coupled to the front half module.  
15

9. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 8 wherein the front half module connectors and the rear half module connectors comprises:

front half module electrical contacts formed on a rear portion of the front half module for allowing electrical coupling between the front half module and the rear half module;

5 and

rear half electrical contacts formed on a front portion of the rear half module for allowing electrical coupling between the front half module and the rear half module.

10. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 9 wherein the front half module electrical contacts is an edge connector.

11. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising:  
a channeling formed on a rear section of the front half module, the channeling running along a length of the front half;

15 an edge connector contact running along a length of the channeling for allowing electrical coupling between the front half module and the rear half module;

a tab member formed on a front portion of the rear half module; and

20 a mating connector pin formed on the tab member, wherein the tab member of the rear half module is positioned within the channeling, the mating connector pin engaging the edge connector contact to electrically couple the front half module to the rear half module.

12. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising:

a tab member formed on a rear portion of the front half module; and

a mating connector pin formed on the tab member;

a channeling formed on a front section of the rear half module, the channeling

5 running along a length of the front half; and

an edge connector contact running along a length of the channeling for allowing

electrical coupling between the front half module and the rear half module, wherein the tab

member of the front half module is positioned within the channeling, the mating connector pin

engaging the edge connector contact to electrically couple the front half module to the rear half

10 module.

13. A multi use circuit module comprising:

a front half module wherein the front half module is a functional circuit module

having electrical contacts on a front portion there of for electrically coupling the multi use circuit

15 module to a host device;

a rear half module removably coupled to the front half module for increasing

functionality of the multi use circuit module; and

means formed on the front half module and the rear half module for removably

coupling the front half module to the rear half module.

14. A multi use circuit module in accordance with Claim 13 further comprising means formed on the front half module and the rear half module for locking the front half module to the rear half module.

5           15. A method for increasing functionality of a circuit module comprising:  
              providing a front half module wherein the front half module is a functional circuit module having electrical contacts on a front portion there of for electrically coupling the multi use circuit module to a host device;

10           forming connectors on the front half module;  
              coupling a rear half module to the front half module for increasing functionality of the multi use circuit module wherein the rear half module has a connector for removably coupling the front half module to the rear half module.

15           16. The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of coupling a rear half module which is a non-functional component, the rear half module being coupled to the front half module to standardize a size of the multi use circuit module.

17. The method of Claim 15 further comprising coupling a rear half module which is a functional I/O component, the rear half module being coupled to the front half module to increase functionality of the multi use circuit module by allowing different I/O components to be coupled to the front half module.

5

18. The method of Claim 17 further comprising:

forming electrical contacts on a rear portion of the front half module to electrically couple the front half module to the rear half module; and

forming electrical contacts on a front portion of the rear half module to electrically

10 couple the front half module to the rear half module.